

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 01410 292109Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /057 W

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R 291200Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3675

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FOLG TELE RPTD FOR YOUR INFO. QUOTE.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BOMBAY 0229

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT IN

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SITUATION IN GUJARAT

REF: BOMBAY 210

1. GUJARAT SITUATION CONTINUES TO APPROACH SHOWDOWN AS A SPLIT IN KMLP IS NOW CERTAIN. THE LEGISLATIVE WING OF THE PARTY LED BY VALLABHBHAI PATEL REPORTEDLY CONTINUES TO FAVOR SUPPORT FOR THE FRONT, WHILE THE FACTION OF KMLP HEADED BY CHIMANBHAI PATEL FAVORS WITHDRAWING ITS SUPPORT. CHIMANBHAI HAS NO PUBLICLY JOINED WITH KMLP VICE PRESIDENT JAIDEEPSINHJI IN CONDEMNING THE FRONT GOVERNMENT, SAYING THAT THE FRONT IN HIS OPINION "WAS AN UTTER FAILURE." THE CHIMANBHAI/JAIDEEPSINHJI STATEMENTS LEAVE NO DOUBT THAT THEY WILL WITHDRAW THEIR SUPPORT FROM THE FRONT.

2. IT IS STILL UNCLEAR HOW MANY LEGISLATORS WILL ABANDON THE FRONT AT THIS TIME. WE EXPECT AT LEAST SIX KMLP LEGISLATORS TO CONTINUE THEIR SUPPORT OF THE FRONT, WHICH WILL ENABLE THE FRONT TO CONTINUE IN POWER AT LEAST FOR THE TIME BEING SINCE, AT THIS WRITING, ONLY THREE PRO-KMLP INDEPENDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO JOIN CHIMANBHAI/JAIDEEPSINHJI. HOWEVER, THE FRONT'S POSITION IS OBVIOUSLY ERODING.

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3. WE ALSO HEAR THAT SOME OF THE BHARATIYA LIK DAL (BLD) MEMBERS IN GUJARAT HAVE JOINED THE CONGRESS (R). THE BLD HAS ONLY ONE STATE LEGISLATOR, BUT THE PARTY IS A CONSTITUENT OF THE FRONT AND BLD DEFECTIONS TO THE CONGRESS (R) COULD FURTHER DEMORALIZE THE FRONT.

4. A SOURCE CLOSE TO CHIMANBHAI PATEL INFORMS US THAT THE DISSOLUTION OF KMLP IS, AT THIS POINT, A DISTINCT POSSIBILITY. OUR SOURCE INFORMS US THAT A MEETING OF KMLP IS SCHEDULED FOR THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY, AT WHICH TIME CHIMANBHAI MIGHT DISSOLVE THE PARTY AND LET EACH LEGISLATOR GO HIS OWN WAY. COURTNEY UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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